Information Seeking Behavior among the PG Students of Government Degree College, Sindhanur: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper is discussing the various attitudes and behavior to seek information through library and information Services in Government Degree College Library, Sindhanur. In technological modern era, this research is helpful to user to keep themselves updated and to provide the detail study and information regarding how many innovative services like library software, classification and cataloguing schemes, are used in library. It also indicates a detailed study on which types of information sources are available in library, which information services are provided and with the access of internet, user can get various information as per their requirements. Further, it's showing details study which policy is adopted to attract the more users.

Keywords: Information Seeking Behavior, Information Needs.

INTRODUCTION

Information seeking behavior refers to the way people search for and utilize information. In 2000, Wilson described information behavior as the totality of human behavior in relation to sources and channels of information, including both active and passive information-seeking, and information use. He described information seeking behavior as purposive seeking of information as a consequence of a need to satisfy some goal. Information seeking behavior is the micro-level of behavior employed by the searcher in interacting with information systems of all kinds, be it between the seeker and the system, or the pure method of creating and following up on a search. Information is considered as an important resource that contributes towards the development of a nation. It provides the core for the development of knowledge, the basis for innovations, the resources for informed citizenry, and as a result, becomes a key commodity for the progress of a society. Acknowledging the significance of information in national development, Wasserman noted that "it is not an accident that the developed nations are those in which information products and services have been brought into being and are widely exploited, first in conventional forms and later through computer intervention". Members of a society acquire the needed information from a variety of sources. However, several of these sources are expensive, complex or difficult for individuals to acquire and use. Therefore,

the role of libraries becomes vital in meeting the information needs of individuals in the society. Libraries develop their collections, facilities and services to meet the information needs of their patrons. However, in order to accomplish this task effectively, libraries must have a thorough understanding of the information needs and information seeking behaviour of their users.

About Government Degree College Sindhanur

Sindhanur is the famous Taluka of the Raichur district and richest taluka in India. Scholars are of the opinion that, this region has got its name as Sindhanur as this region used to be ruled by the Sindhus in its past. Tungabhadra and Vedavati rivers flow in the south-east of this taluka, and this region is also known as "Paddy Granary of Raichur". The Maski ditch and the Na ditch in its northern directions make up for the lack of irrigation in this region. The concept of tutelage was in practice in the masses since 1971 as a result of endeavours of many interested persons, especially Late Sri. Amaregouda Gadratagi Ex-MLA sindhanur Constitucy and the Commissioner of Collegiate Education of that moment. And it is from there the college has cultivated its educational environment and desires while also aiming to educate the people of this region and the communities in it with an excellent level of quality of education. This college is "Subsequent Higher Education Institution" and also second oldest college in the zone of Kalyana-Karnataka of karnataka, which was established by Government of Karnataka, post Independence. It was under the affiliation of Karnataka University, Dharwad up to 1980-1981. Then onwards, it was affiliated to Gulbarga University, Kalburagi and very recently from the academic year of 2021-22, it has been leagued with the Raichur University of Raichur with the scheme of NEP 2020. This College has been accredited with "B" Grade in first cycle in 2004-05 and "B" grade in second cycle by NAAC during the year 2015-16 with CGP 2.41. Third cycle by NAAC during the year 2023 with CGP 2.54 with grade B+. The college has got its own beautiful garden consisting of the medicinal plants, herbs and rare beautiful flowers. The campus area is 32 acres having various play grounds. The college offers undergraduate courses viz.,B.A, B.Com,B.B.A, and B.Sc., with different combinations and postgraduate courses viz.,M.A.,M.Com, and M. Sc. The institution has drawn up an action plan to impart knowledge and to enable students to cherish their creative abilities. The institution is guided by the national education policies which emphasizes preparing efficient and skilled human resources for facing up to the contemporary challenges.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follow

- ✓ To identify the information needs of PG students in the College.
- ✓ To know the awareness the library resources and Services in the College .
- ✓ To study the Purpose of information seeking of PG students.
- ✓ To investigate the information seeking behavior of PG students.
- ✓ To determine the methods used by PG Students for seeking information.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Through extensive literature reviews it has been observed that social scientists depend more on formal sources of information than on informal ones. On the other hand, when compared with physical scientists, it has been found that social scientists seem to use similar information sources and similar methods to retrieve information. They also experience similar problems in dealing with information (Faibisoff & Ely, 1974).

With regard to formal sources of information A.L. Goldberg (1971) found that social scientists used monograph and journal literature to a similar extent. Jones, Chapman and Woods (1972) suggested that social scientists in general and historians in particular made heavy use of non-serial publications and concentrated significantly on a few "core" journals. Stieg (1981) reported that historians preferred using a number of well-known journals for research purposes.

Many research studies have been conducted on information seeking behaviour to know the seeking pattern of users. The behaviour of user varies and changes according to their needs, knowledge level, geographical location, time and requirement. These studies have been conducted in different disciplines and countries. Studies were conducted in medical sciences (Younger, 2010; Isah & Byström, 2016); agricultural sciences (Satija & Singh, 2006); physical and social sciences (Ellis, Cox & Hall, 1993).

A survey study was conducted by Al-Muomen, Morris and Maynard (2012) to develop a model for the information-seeking behaviour of graduate students at Kuwait University. They found that many significant factors influences students" information seeking behaviour. The logistic regression analysis and other analyses confirmed that demographics (gender, nationality and age), discipline, type of enrolment, stage of study, level of study, and pedagogy were predictors of information-seeking behaviour.

METHODOLOGY

Questionnaire was used in this study. Accordingly the questionnaires were administered to the users of the library and responses of the users were solicited. A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed to the PG students of Government Degree College . Out of which 40 questionnaire were rejected due to incomplete information and 210 questionnaires taken into account for the study.

Table 1 : Gender Wise Distribution

Gender	Informant	Percentage
Male	127	60.47
Female	83	39.52

Table 1 shows the gender wise response PG students of Government Degree College Sindhanur Students respondents out of that 127 (60.47%) are Male and 83 (39.52%) female Informant PG students of Government Degree College Sindhanur

Table 2 : Frequency of Library Visit

Frequence of Library Visit	Informant	Percentage
Daily	82	39.04
Once in aWeek	64	30.47
Twice in a week	40	19.04
Once in a month	10	04.76
Occasionally	04	01.90

Frequency of Library Visit Respondent Percentage Daily 82 39.04 Once in a week 64 30.47 Twice in a week 40 19.04 Once in a month 10 04.76 Occasionally 04 01.90 Frequency of visit to library depends upon the factors like necessity of the text books , periodicals , availability of the information etc. Table II observed that 39.04% of the respondents visited the library daily, 30.47% once in a week, 19.04% twice in a week, 04.76% Once in a month and the remaining of 01.90% occasionally. This study found that most of the respondents (39.04%) visiting their library regularly.

Table 3: Purpose of Library Visit

Purpose	Informant	Percentage
To Study	96	45.71
Prepare assignment	20	09.52
Borrowing the books	28	13.33
Using E-resource	16	07.61
Periodicals	50	23.80
Total	210	100.00

Purpose Respondents Percentage To study 96 (45.71%) Prepare assignment 20 (09.52%) Borrowing the books 28 (13.33%) Periodicals 50 (23.80%) Using e- resources 16 (07.61%) Total 210 100.00

Table 4: Use of Information Sources

Sources	No of Informants	Percentage
Newspapers	191	90.95
Periodicals	124	73.33
General book	60	28.57
Textbooks	185	88.09
Dictionaries	77	36.66
Encyclopedias	50	23.80
E -Resources	156	74.28

Information sources may be grouped differently by different authors. Table IV shows majority of of Respondents Percentage Newspapers 191 (90.95 %) Periodicals 124 (73.33%) General books 60 (28.57%) Textbooks 185 (88.09%) Dictionaries 77 (36.66%) Encyclopedias 50 (23.80%)   E Resources 156 (74.28%)Table IV shows that majority of the respondents used information sources were as newspapers 90.95%, were as periodicals 73.33 Government Degree College PG students are using information Source of textbooks were as 88.09 followed by e-resources are 74.28% rest of the information sources are presented in the table.

Table 5: Locate the Required Information Search Pattern

Search Pattern	Informant	Percentage
Searching Shelf	113	53.80
OPAC	27	12.85
Librarian	70	33.33
Total	210	100.00

Libraries are having huge collections of books, periodicals, e-resources etc. Finding a particular item of information from these vast collections is not an easy task. There are various ways to find a document or an item of information from the library. This table indicates that most of the respondents searched the information Shelf search 53.80%, were as OPAC search 12.85% and by help of the librarian 33.33%.

Table 6 : Purpose of Information Seeking

Purpose	Informant	Percentage
Study purpose	156	74.28
General Knowledge	105	50.00
Preparing Assignment	186	88.57
Prepare the Notes	142	67.61

percentage Study Purpose 156 74.28 General Awareness 105 50.00 Preparing assignment 186 88.57 Prepare the notes 142 67.61 Table VI shows that majority of students use preparingAssignment are 88.57%, followed by study purpose is 74.28%, were as to prepare the notes are 67.61%. Followed by general awareness are 50.00%. Other details are presented in the table.

Table 7: Preference for Formats

Format	Informant	Percentage
Print	205	97.61
Electronic	187	89.04
Both	93	44.28

Table VII shows the preference for formats for the information seeking in the Govt Degree College sindhanur PG Students respondents out of that 205 (97.61%) are using print resources. Were as 187 (89.04%) respondents are using electronic resources, followed by 93 (44.28%) respondents are using both the resources in the Govt Degree College Sindhanur.

Table 8: Difficulties and Problems in Libraries Service

Problem in library Services	informant	Percentage
Material is not available on the shelf	52	24.76
Outdated reading Materials	35	16.66
Lack of awareness of the Availability of materials	57	27.14
Shortage of latest magazine	85	40.47

Table VIII shows the problems and difficulties in library services in Govt Degree College Sindhanur. Were as 40.47% respondents are facing difficulties as shortage of latest Magazine, followed by 27.14% respondents are facing problem as a lack of awareness of the availability of materials, were as 24.76% respondents are facing difficulties as a material is not available on the shelf, follow by were as 16.66% students are facing difficulties in library services as outdated reading materials.

Table 9: Impact of ICT on Information Seeking

Impact	Informant	Percentage
Yes	156	74.28
No	54	25.72

Table IX shows that the impact of ICT on information seeking of library users in Govt Degree College Sindhanur. Were as 74.28% respondents are aware of impact of ICT on information seeking are aware in the College, where as 25.72% respondents are not aware

Table 10: Satisfaction With Present Library Services By Users

Satisfaction Level	Students	Percentage
Satisfied	204	97.19
Dissatisfied	6	02.81

Table X shows that the satisfaction level of the library users are 97.19% and dissatisfaction level is very low 02.81%.

FINDINGS

1. Gender wise visit study implies more male students visited library than female students.

2. Most of the students visit library for study purpose.

3. Most of the students visit daily

4. Students prefer books and Magazine.

5. Print media is preferred over non print media.

6. Students are satisfied with library services.

SUGGESTIONS

Information literacy programs or library orientation programs, Reading Motivation program are to be conducted to make library more user friendly

CONCLUSION

This study shows that IT based library services are being less utilized compared with print sources by the Users. Users use a verity of information sources for their Study. Books and Periodicals are considered mostly. Government Degree College Sindhanur Library play a effective role in meeting students' information needs, they also prefer to consult library first. It was also noted that there was little awareness of e-resources available in library.

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